

[19 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Fishermen missing from the coastal belt of Kutch

3666. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of fishermen are reported missing from time to time from the coastal belt of Kutch;

(b) if so, the number of fishermen reported missing during the last two years, year-wise;

(c) whether some locations at Jakhau in Gujarat have been identified for setting up of Coast Guard Station;

(d) whether the clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests has been received;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(f) the other steps being taken to ensure their safety?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) As per information obtained from Government of Gujarat, the number of fishermen reported missing during the last two years are as under:—

From 1.1.1999 to 31.12.1999 — 137

From 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2000 — 31

(c) to (e) The Coast Guard have identified three pieces of land at Jakhau in Gujarat for setting up a Coast Guard Station. The Government of Gujarat is willing to provide all these three pieces of land provided the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOE&F's) clearance is obtained for one acre of land situated near Jakhau Port. Environmental clearance for one acre of land has since been obtained from the MOE&F.

(f) Coast Guard stations regularly interact with fishing community ashore especially those who operate close to the maritime boundary with Pakistan. Regular instructional lectures are conducted to indicate maritime boundaries and safety precautions to be taken. These issues are brought to the knowledge of respective State administration and fisheries departments for strict compliance. Coast Guard ships on

routine Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance also direct fishing vessels operating close to International Boundary Line to fish well within the Indian waters.

Institution facilitating girls' entry into defence forces

3667. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a letter suggesting that institutions on the lines of Sainik Schools be set up to impart education with necessary training for girls to facilitate their entry into the defence forces was received long back from Gujarat;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) by when such schools will be started; and

(d) the details of such schools with their locations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A letter was received from Minister of State Education, Women and Child Welfare, Government of Gujarat, in 1998.

(b) to (d) The proposal to open Sainik schools for girls had not been agreed as such schools are not considered necessary at this time.

Budgetary allocation for LCA engine

3668. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated in this year's budget for research and development activities of the LCA engine;

(b) by when the Kaveri Engine is going to be replaced with the US Engine; and

(c) how many tests have been conducted on Kaveri Engine, so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The total amount proposed for R&D activities of Kaveri engine during this year is Rs. 150 crore.